

REMARKS

This Response is submitted in reply to the Office Action mailed on June 12, 2006. Claim 1 has been amended. No new matter is added by these amendments.

A Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement is submitted herewith. Please charge deposit account number 02-1818 to cover the cost of the Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement and any other fees which are due in connection with this Response.

The Office Action rejected Claims 1 to 5, 9 to 19, and 23 to 24 under U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by US Patent No. 6,364,767 to Brossard ("Brossard"). Applicant respectfully disagrees with these rejections. Nevertheless, Applicant has amended certain of the claims to clarify the existing claim elements.

Brossard discloses a gaming device which includes a plurality of components in a plurality of different categories. In one embodiment, the gaming device enables a player to select one component from each of three categories, including songs, artists, and colors, to form an initial combination of components. The gaming device further includes a wheel having three counter-rotating rings. Each of the rings includes a plurality of indicia representing the various components in one of the categories. For example, as seen in Fig. 1, the middle ring of the wheel includes a plurality of indicia relating to artists. After the player selects an initial combination of components, the gaming device uses the wheel to randomly select a final combination. More particularly, the gaming device causes the three rings to counter-rotate and, when the rings stop rotating, a pointer associated with the wheel indicates one component from each ring (i.e., a song, an artist, and a color). The indicated components make up the final combination. The gaming device compares the initial, player-selected combination to the randomly selected final combination and awards a prize to the player based on the degree of correspondence between the initial combination and the final combination.

Brossard does not anticipate a gaming device which includes an award distributor including: (i) a plurality of sections situated in a predetermined arrangement on said award distributor, each of said sections defined by one of a plurality of first coordinates and one of a plurality of second coordinates, wherein each first coordinate is associated with a group of the sections including a plurality of the sections, and each second coordinate is associated with a group of sections including a plurality of sections; and (ii) a plurality of symbols associated with said sections.

As discussed above, Brossard discloses utilizing a wheel comprising three indicia-bearing, counter-rotating rings to randomly select a combination of components. In operation, the gaming device causes the three rings to spin and, when the rings stop spinning, a pointer indicates the combination of a song, an artist, and a color.

Page 2 of the Office Action states that Brossard discloses sections that are defined by three coordinates—a song, an artist, and a color. Applicant agrees with the Office Action's interpretation. However, as described above, the gaming device of Brossard selects a combination of three components or coordinates by causing the wheel's rings to spin and pointing to one coordinate in each of the three rings. In accordance with the Office Action's interpretation, the indicated combination of a song, artist, and color is a section. Thus, Brossard does not anticipate an award distributor including a plurality of sections situated in a predetermined arrangement on the award distributor. Rather, Brossard discloses a gaming device that builds sections by spinning the rings of the wheel and causing an indication of a requisite number of components or coordinates.

Accordingly, for at least the reasons discussed above, Applicant respectfully submits that amended independent Claim 1 and Claims 2 to 5, 9 to 19, and 23 to 24 which depend therefrom are each patentably distinguished over Brossard and in condition for allowance.

The Office Action rejected Claims 6 to 8, and 20 to 22 under U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Brossard in view of US Patent No. 5,996,997 to Kamille ("Kamille"). Applicant respectfully disagrees with these rejections. Nevertheless, Applicant has amended certain of the claims to clarify the existing claim elements.

Kamille discloses a lottery type game including a plurality of playing spots or areas which are each initially masked (col. 5, lines 19 to 29). The game starts by the player selecting one of the initially masked spots or areas. The selected spot is revealed to uncover either a directional symbol, a win symbol with an associated award, or a lose symbol (col. 5, lines 61 to 67). If a directional symbol is revealed, taking the form of an arrow or pointer, the player is directed to select another specific spot or area with their next selection. The player's next selection is limited to the specific spot or area which the directional symbol indicates. If a win symbol is revealed, the player wins an award associated with the win symbol. If a lose symbol is revealed, the game ends.

The Office Action admits that Brossard does not include a terminator symbol associated with one of the sections. The Office Action attempts to remedy this deficiency of Brossard with Kamille. The Office Action concludes that it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to modify Brossard to include sections associated with terminating symbols, as taught by Kamille, to limit awards provided to the player and reduce the risk to operators of the gaming machine.

Regardless of whether it would have been obvious to modify Brossard in the manner proposed by the Office Action, the gaming device resulting from the combination of Brossard and Kamille would not include each and every element of Claims 6 to 8 and 20 to 22. More specifically, the combination of Brossard and Kamille does not render obvious an award distributor including: (i) a plurality of sections situated in a predetermined arrangement on said award distributor, each of said sections defined by one of a plurality of first coordinates and one of a plurality of second coordinates, wherein each first coordinate is associated with a group of the sections including a plurality of the sections, and each second

coordinate is associated with a group of sections including a plurality of sections; and (ii) a plurality of symbols associated with said sections.


Claims 6 to 8 and 20 to 22 each depend from amended independent Claim 1. Claims 6 to 8 and 20 to 22 each include, among other elements, an award distributor including: (i) a plurality of sections situated in a predetermined arrangement on said award distributor, each of said sections defined by one of a plurality of first coordinates and one of a plurality of second coordinates, wherein each first coordinate is associated with a group of the sections including a plurality of the sections, and each second coordinate is associated with a group of sections including a plurality of sections; and (ii) a plurality of symbols associated with said sections. Claims 6 to 8 and 20 to 22 also include a processor operable to cause a display of a plurality of the symbols associated with the sections upon a play of the game. Accordingly, the symbols associated with the sections of the award distributor, as claimed in Claims 6 to 8 and 20 to 22, are displayed to the player upon a play of the game.

As discussed above, Brossard does not anticipate the award distributor of Claims 6 to 8 and 20 to 22. In Kamille, the selections are associated with symbols that are masked upon initiation of the game. Prior to the player selecting a selection, the symbol associated with that selection is not displayed to the player. Kamille does not provide a gaming device which includes an award distributor having sections associated with symbols that are displayed to the player upon a play of the game. Thus, Kamille does not cure the deficiencies of Brossard.

Accordingly, for at least the reasons discussed above, Applicant respectfully submits that Claims 6 to 8 and 20 to 22 are each patentably distinguished over the combination of Brossard and Kamille.

An earnest endeavor has been made to place this application in condition for formal allowance and in the absence of more pertinent art such action is courteously solicited. If the Examiner has any questions regarding this Response, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,
BELL, BOYD & LLOYD LLC

BY 

Adam H. Masia
Reg. No. 35,602
Customer No. 29159

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